

accounts to help executive employees pay for child care. In each of the 2 years, this legislation has been included in the Treasury, Postal Service and General Government Appropriations Bill. It is my hope that we can now make this much needed service for our federal employees permanent. Evidence has already begun to mount about the success of the program and OPM will be coming out with a report in March which will further elaborate on its usefulness for federal agencies.

The Child Care Affordability for Federal Employees Act, developed with the help of OPM, would allow agencies to pay a portion of the providers' operating costs, thus enabling the centers to reduce the fees charged to lower income federal employees. It would be up to individual agencies to determine whether or not to use funds from their salary and expense accounts to help provide child care. Agencies—not employees—would make payments to child care providers to help lower income federal employees pay for their child care.

One of the greatest challenges families face is finding safe, affordable day care. Having raised nine children and now watching them struggle with their own child care dilemmas, I am well acquainted with the problems associated with finding quality day care. America's lack of safe, affordable day care is not a new problem, but its consequences are becoming more dire, and it does require new, innovative solutions. In 1995, 62 percent of women with children younger than 6 and 77 percent of women with children between the ages of 6 and 17 were in the labor force.

Approximately one-quarter of all federal workers have children under the age of 6 needing care at some time during the work day. In some federal child care facilities, families are charged up to \$10,000 or more per child per year. Many federal employees simply cannot afford quality child care. By allowing agencies the flexibility to help workers meet their child care needs, we will be encouraging family-friendly workplaces and higher productivity. It is clear that we need more child care, we need affordable child care, and we need quality child care. And unless child care becomes a priority in the private sector and the public sector, families, including those of federal employees, aren't going to find it.

Mr. Speaker, as a nation, we must and we can do better for our children, and this legislation, making federal services permanent, is an important first step.

A PROCLAMATION RECOGNIZING THE 50TH WEDDING ANNIVERSARY OF GENE AND EILEEN DOSSON

HON. ROBERT W. NEY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2001

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues:

Whereas, Gene and Eileen Dosson were united in marriage on February 24th, 1951, and will be celebrating their 50th year as man and wife;

Whereas, Gene and Eileen declared their love before God, family and friends;

Whereas, Gene and Eileen have had 50 years of sharing, loving and working together;

Whereas, Gene and Eileen may be blessed with all the happiness and love that two can share and may their love grow with each passing year;

Whereas, Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to congratulate Gene and Eileen on their 50th anniversary. I ask that my colleagues join me in wishing Gene and Eileen Dosson many more years of happiness together.

MICHAEL J. NADON: A TRIBUTE

HON. JAMES L. OBERSTAR

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2001

Mr. OBERSTAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a truly great American, Michael Nadon, whom the Lord claimed for eternal life earlier this month.

Michael J. Nadon, a certificated aircraft dispatcher and a decorated veteran of the conflict in Viet Nam, passed away unexpectedly on February 3rd, 2001.

Winner of the Bronze Star and recipient of three Purple Hearts, Mike displayed quiet courage in the face of all of life's challenges. On January 13th, 1967, as a member of the First Infantry Division, severely wounded, he refused medical treatment and continued to assist others while under heavy fire. Certainly, some of this courage and character came from his father, Joe, a World War II fighter pilot.

As a charter member and past president of the Airline Dispatchers Federation (ADF), Mike was instrumental in changing regulations to improve aviation safety in the National Airspace System. Thanks to Mike, the safest form of mass transportation in the world is safer still. His contributions were numerous, his spirit was unbroken, his intellect was great and his heart was huge. Mike Nadon will be missed by his family, by his friends, and by his country.

TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH N. KREMONAS

HON. RIC KELLER

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2001

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to honor one of my constituents, Joseph N. Kremonas. After over 45 years of dedicated service in the United States Defense Industry, Mr. Joseph N. Kremonas has recently retired from the Lockheed Martin Corporation. Mr. Kremonas has served the United States defense community by leading in the development of numerous systems for the United States Department of Defense to support our nation's warfighter.

Several professional associations have benefited from his membership such as the Association of the Army, The American Defense Preparedness Association, National Security Industrial Association and the National Aeronautic Association.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my fellow Members of Congress to join me in expressing thanks to Mr. Kremonas for his service.

TRIBUTE TO ASSEMBLYWOMAN GLORIA DAVIS

HON. JOSÉ E. SERRANO

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, February 12, 2001

Mr. SERRANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to wish a very happy birthday to Assemblywoman Gloria Davis, an outstanding individual who has devoted here life to her family and to serving the community. Ms. Davis turned 63 on Friday, February 9 and celebrated at a party given by her family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, Assemblywoman Davis has represented the 79th Assembly District of Bronx County, which includes the neighborhoods of Morrisania, Claremont, Crotona-Mapes, Longwood, Charlotte Gardens, Concourse village, and Belmont, since 1980. Prior to her election, she served six years as district leader. She is a vibrant, dynamic, caring woman who has dedicated the past twenty years to the improvement of conditions for families and children. She was a co-founder of the City-Wide Parents for Day Care, and national coordinator for the National Welfare Rights Organization, and has served as a member of the steering committee of the Women's State Democratic Committee. Active in the revitalization of her district, Ms. Davis has been instrumental in securing funds for the redevelopment of the Boston Road corridor, fighting to have an Educational Opportunity Center (EOC) built and continuously supported in the district, insisting that Settlement Houses continues to have a mission today, and challenging the community to recognize their dependence upon each other.

Her seniority and dedication to coalition building were recognized when former Speaker Saul Weprin appointed her Assistant Majority Whip in January 1993. She was appointed Chair of the Assembly's Majority Conference in January 1995. Current Speaker Sheldon Silver has come to rely on her to insure productive discussion and in January 2001 she was appointed Majority Whip. Further, she was recently appointed Co-Chair of the Assembly's Tri-State Planning Committee and heads the Bronx Delegation. In 1991, Assemblywoman Davis became the first woman elected to serve as chair of the New York State Black and Puerto Rican Legislative Caucus. Two years later, she was elected as chairperson of the New York State Association of Black and Puerto Rican Legislators, Inc.

Gloria Davis was born on February 9, 1938, in the Bronx and was raised in Gainville, Florida. She returned to the Bronx as a young adult and attended Bronx Community College and Fordham University. She was previously employed by the Comptroller's Office of the City of New York, the Department of Transportation and was a Confidential Aide to a Bronx Supreme Court Judge.

Mr. Speaker, Gloria Davis is the mother of five, the grandmother of eleven, and she is a great grandmother as well.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleague to join me in wishing a happy 63rd birthday to Assemblywoman Gloria Davis and in congratulating her in her recent appointment as Majority Whip of the New York State Assembly.